

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

HENRY B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND JOSEPH EISELY, PROPRIETORS. H. B. MASSER, Editor.

THE "AMERICAN" is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum to be paid half yearly in advance. No paper discontinued till all arrearages are paid.

SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eisely.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co., Pa. Saturday, April 3, 1841.

Vol. I—No. XXVIII.

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion, \$0 50; 1 do 2 do, 0 75; 1 do 3 do, 1 00; Every subsequent insertion, 0 25; Yearly Advertisements, (with the privilege of alteration) one column \$25; half column, \$18; three squares, \$12; two squares, \$9; one square, \$5. Without the privilege of alteration a liberal discount will be made.

FOR THE AMERICAN. Extracts of Readings.

FRANCIS II. of France, a prince as noble and insignificant in body as in mind, possessed the most beautiful richness of the age, as his consort—Mary of Scotland. Fortune delights to assemble incongruities—nature, in its combinations, is always systematic, but which is unnatural is disgusting, and that which is disgusting, when its abundance is compulsive, progressively induces an obliquity of mind in the unfortunate subject who suffers it.

It is said that Francis was afflicted with scorbatic disorders. He was removed to Blois for the benefit of air, was reported there at the time, and edit was attached to the report in the city of Blois, that the blood of infants was procured to make him a bath, similar report had prevailed previously, relative to Louis XI. in his last illness, though upon no veritable foundation.

Voltaire depicted the character Francis II. in the following couplet: "Cible enfant, qui de Guise adorait les caprices, dont on ignorait les vertus et les vices." HENRIADE. [Waxall's Memoirs.

The Dutch settlement in Batavia, in East Indies, exhibits every production that can please the taste: every appearance that can delight the view. It is verdant, fertile, airy, and gay; adorned with splendid buildings; ornamented with ever-smiling gardens; full of the forms most pleasing to the imagination, and that most associate with wealth and happiness. But it smiles to ray: death and disease lurk beneath verdure, and its beauty. A youth coming from sea, and enraptured with the beauty of every object he saw and him, but mindful of the danger to life, could not help exclaiming, "What an excellent habitation it would be for immortals.—[Staunton's Embassy.

On the road side, in Spain, crosses of wood frequently arrest the eye of the traveller, which are intended to mark the spot where some unfortunate person as been murdered by the robber or assassin. In conformity to the ancient superstition, which represented the tops inhumantia que turba, as excluded from the joys of the Elysian fields until their bones are previously covered, passengers think it a work of piety, to cast a stone upon the monumental heap. [Townsend's Journey.

Powder was not worn in the hair by the ancients; and did not come into use until about the year 1593, in Paris. The Roman ladies dyed their hair, to make the color more lively, as light colored hair was most in fashion. They also used the artificial aids of perfumes and essences, and sometimes sprinkled it with gold dust, to make it look more brilliant.—[D'Armay's Private Life of the Romans.

Before the English became possessed of Calcutta, in the East Indies, no hospital existed in that populous and sickly place, for the relief of the indigent natives. An institution of that kind was established by the voluntary contributions of Europeans; and the charity-strangers extended relief to some of the natives of the country, whose religion taught them to erect hospitals for dogs, cats, lions, and several other animals—but not for man.—[Tenant's Ind. Rec.

No misfortunes, however great, no public calamities, however overwhelming, are capable of repressing the elastic spring of French vivacity. It is related by Miss Williams, that even in the most distracted period of the French Revolution, the amusements of twenty-four theatres, and of two thousand ball rooms, were open to a vast concourse of people of every description, from the highest to the lowest class.—[Travels in Switzerland, by H. M. Williams.

The solitary Arab, having prepared his meal in the midst of the desert, before he presumes to partake of it, raises himself upon the highest place he can find, and calls three times with a loud voice, to all the sons of the faith, his brethren, to come and share his feast,

although no human being is within a hundred miles of him. This custom is retained by them as a form of hospitality.—[Payne's Geographical Extracts.

In the vicinity of Montserret, in Spain, and near the village of Cardon, there is a stupendous mountain, which is one mass of salt. It is three miles in circumference, and equal in height to the Pyrenees, on which it borders. They employ this rock salt in Spain as they do the fluor spar in England, to make snuff boxes and vases. The dryness of the atmosphere in the country adjacent, preserves it from deliquescence; but when the substance is exposed to a moist atmosphere it dissolves. [Townsend's Journey.

VOLTAIRE generally attended the representation of his own pieces, and on such occasions manifested as much distress, and shed as many tears, as a girl present for the first time at a tragedy.

From the N. Y. Zion's Watchman. MORMONISM.

TESTIMONY OF EIGHTY WITNESSES. At the close of the book of Mormon we find what is called "The testimony of eleven witnesses," who affirm that they had "seen and hefted" the plates from which it is pretended the book was translated; and also, what is called "The testimony of three witnesses," who affirm that "an angel of God came down from heaven, and brought and laid before their eyes the plates and the engraving thereon."

But we have before shown that these witnesses are not to be credited, because they are interested, and no evidence whatever can be given besides their own word, to prove either their good character for truth, or the existence of any such plates as they speak of.

In the work called "Mormonism Unveiled," before referred to, we find testimonies of not less than eighty different persons, all residents of Wayne and Ontario counties, N. Y., which prove, beyond the possibility of doubt or contradiction, that neither Joseph Smith, jr. nor either of his witnesses are to be believed, and that Mormonism, from beginning to end, is a base delusion, which does not leave its originators even the credit of honesty or good intentions in its propagation. These witnesses are disinterested, respectable citizens of this state, many of whom have made solemn oath to the following facts, and their characters are sufficiently vouched for by magistrates of the counties where they live. Among many other things which might be named to the eternal dishonor of the authors of the Mormon delusion, we will notice the following:—

- 1. That Joseph Smith, Jr. and his family were, about the time he pretended to have discovered the book of Mormon, known as "fortune tellers" and "money diggers," and that they often had recourse to tricks of jugglery for the purpose of finding money, which they said was hid in the earth.
2. That the said Smith, up to that time, and after, was known as a wicked man, that he was a cheat, and a liar, and used profane language; that he was intemperate and quarrelsome.
3. That his own father-in-law never had any confidence in him, and he was known to the manner in which Smith commenced his imposture in getting out what he called the book of Mormon.
4. That Smith has, himself, confessed the cheat, and so has Martin Harris, one of his principal witnesses. Harris once said, "What if it is a lie? if you will let me alone, I will make money out of it."
5. That Oliver Cowdrey, another of the witnesses to Smith's book, was not a man of good character before he joined Smith in the cheat of Mormonism.
6. That Smith and Martin Harris were in the habit of meeting together, often, just before the plates were said to be found, and, were familiarly known in the neighborhood by the name of the "Gold Bible Company;" and they were regarded by the community, generally, as a lying, indolent set of fellows, in whom no confidence could be placed; and Joseph Smith, jr.'s character for truth was so notoriously bad, that he could not be, and was not believed when under oath.
7. The wife of Martin Harris testifies, that he is both a cruel man and a liar, he having beat her, and turned her out of his house.

8. That Smith confessed his object in pretending to find the plates, was to make money, saying, "when it is completed, my family will be placed on a level above the generality of mankind." Such are some of the facts, which are proved beyond the possibility of confutation, by the affidavits of respectable witnesses, persons who were well acquainted with Joseph Smith, jr., and his associates, both before and since the pretended discovery of his golden plates. And, perhaps, we cannot better close the investigation of this subject, than by quoting a specimen of those testimonies. It is numerously signed, as will be seen, and by persons well acquainted with the "author and proprietor" of the book of Mormon.—

"PALMYRA, Dec. 4, 1833. "We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with the Smith family, for a number of years, while they resided near this place, and we have no hesitation in saying, that we consider them destitute of that moral character, which ought to entitle them to the confidence of any community. They were particularly famous for visionary projects, spent much of their time in digging for money, which they pretended was hid in the earth; and to this day, large excavations may be seen in the earth, not far from their residence, where they used to spend their time in digging for hidden treasures. Joseph Smith, sen., and his son Joseph, were, in particular, considered entirely destitute of moral character, and addicted to vicious habits.

"Martin Harris was a man who had acquired a handsome property, and in matters of business his word was considered good; but on moral and religious subjects, he was perfectly visionary—sometimes advocating one sentiment, and sometimes another. And in reference to all with whom we were acquainted, who have embraced Mormonism, from this neighborhood, we are compelled to say, were very visionary, and most of them destitute of any moral character, and without influence in this community, and this may account why they were permitted to go on with their impositions undisturbed.

"It was not supposed that any of them were possessed of sufficient character or influence, to make any one believe their book or their sentiments, and we know not of a single individual in the vicinity, that puts the least confidence in their pretended revelations."

[Signed by FIFTY-ONE WITNESSES.

MODE OF PRESERVING TIMBER.—The Civil Engineer and Architects's Journal, for January, 1841, describes a patent lately obtained in the U. S., for preserving wood by boiling it in lime water. The editor of that journal remarks, however, that wood can be much better preserved from decay, by soaking it in a strong solution of lime in cold water. He assigns, as a reason for this, that a much greater quantity of lime, when fresh burned or calcined, is soluble in a given quantity of cold than of boiling water; and also relates several satisfactory experiments, proving the great efficacy of lime, when thus used, in preserving timber from decay. The length of time for which the timber should be soaked, depends very much upon the thickness and texture of the wood; some kinds of timber requiring only a fortnight, and others three or four weeks, and even longer. An artificial pond, the sides made watertight, is used for soaking the timber.

SWAPPING WIVES.—A late N. Hampshire paper gives the particulars of a case of swapping wives, which lately occurred in that state. Two men married sisters, and after a lapse of a short period of time, one of them proposed to the other an exchange of wives, provided the interested ladies made no objections. They made none. So one brave husband gave the other a valuable horse, carriage and harness "to boot," as the expression is. Matters passed on swimmingly for a few days, during which time he who received the "boot" disposed of his horse for the round sum of nearly \$100 in ready cash. In a short time after the disposal of his property, his newly received wife fell in with a person whom she loved more than her own husband, and believing it now her turn to exercise the glorious right of "free trade," she quit "her bed and board," and ran away with her paramour.

The horticulturists in England have succeeded in grafting any species of lilac on the common ash.

From the Albany Cultivator. Culture of the Strawberry.

In my last I promised to give you my plan of cultivating the strawberry, which having succeeded for seven or eight years, producing a full supply of fruit with much less labor, is I conceive, worthy of being made public. The duration of a bed cultivated after my plan, is also a matter of great consequence.

I have never grown any of the choice varieties, except Keene, a seedling, nor have produced fruit so large as I have seen figured or described, but as to the amount produced on a given space, I think I can compete with the most fortunate or skillful.

For soil, I chose that between the extremes of dry and moist, a little gravelly I prefer, which I prepare by mixing well-sifted leaves, rotten wood, and cow yard manure in about equal quantities, which I have well mixed with the soil, by spading or ploughing in deep, if with the plough, some two or three times. I then level the ground, but do not raise it above the walks, so that it will receive and retain all the water which falls upon it. I thus prepare my plantation, either in autumn or spring. The former is preferable, August or September, so that the young plants can take root sufficient to endure the winter. In planting I arrange my beds about six feet wide, putting in the plants about a foot asunder each way. At or near the approach of winter, I give a slight covering of tan bark, say the first year, the second of wet or rotting leaves, and the third of some light mould or well rotted manure, and so on alternately. The tan or leaves are best the first, as either of them better protect the plants. If the plantation was made in autumn, by next July or August the whole surface should be well covered with the vines, which will spring up through the top dressing without much difficulty; at which time I pass through the plantation with a spade, cutting through say lengthwise, about one spit wide, and turning under the plants, then leaving about the same width, and so on alternately through the whole bed. Top dress as above for the winter and next spring as soon the frost is out of the ground sufficiently dry to leave the earth or soil light or mellow. I cut through the bed crosswise with the spade, in the same manner as before.

If the plantation was made in the spring, the first spading should be performed the next spring, and so on semi-annually from year to year. In an old bed I take care to turn under the old plants, so as always to keep up a succession of new and vigorous plants—I never disturb the manures, and do not know but the best time to perform the second spading of the season would be immediately after gathering the fruit, so as to give the runners a light open soil to take root in. From the success I have met with by this process, I am inclined to think that a bed or platform will last twenty years or perhaps even a century. I had a bed seven years old, in a garden I abandoned, without any care last spring or even last year after March working, which produced its usual quantity of fruit this season.

During the blooming season, unless in wet weather, I always give a slight watering from a pail with a rose every evening to set the fruit. This must never be omitted if fruit be an object.

Another circumstance must not be overlooked, that you have bearing or fertile plants. A little observation or skill on the part of the cultivator will enable him to distinguish the barren from the fertile plants, from the large showy flowers, with long stamens, red or black anthers of the former, while the latter are almost destitute of stamens or anthers, and the petals of the flowers are very small. It is said to be necessary to plant both kinds together in order to success. Of the truth of this I have some doubts, but I have not experimented sufficiently on the matter to determine.

As to the produce, I believe, without difficulty by my plan of culture I can grow one hundred and sixty bushels of this delicious fruit to the acre per annum, or one bushel to every square rod. Indeed, I have by actual measurement greatly exceeded this.

A CHARACTER.

The following account of a remarkable villain we find in the Warsaw, Kentucky, Patriot:

We understand that William Bennett, who was tried at the late special term of Gallatin Circuit Court, for stabbing Robert Alcorn, with intent to kill, and sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary for two years and four months, made his escape from the penitentiary the night after he was put in. He was, however, retaken soon after. Bennett is a man of great physical strength, of dare-devil disposition, and one of the most desperate characters we have ever known. He has broken jails repeatedly in this State and in Indiana, and but few jails in the country can hold him. It was with the utmost difficulty he was kept in our jail. He broke all the handcuffs and heavy log chains that were put on him to confine him, and broke down the heavy iron door of his cell, and, finally, the only way he could be kept was by placing a guard over him, during the excessive cold weather, when the humanity of the jailer prompted him to place fire in his room, Bennett would set fire to the jail; so that no fire could safely be left with him. He must have suffered much in consequence, though he was well supplied with blankets, &c. He has been a desperate and dangerous character in society for several years past, and should have been in the penitentiary long ago.

John Vaughan, Esq. and Benj. Franklin. Mr. COBBE, in his late work—A Tour through the United States—has the following notice of our venerable townsman, John Vaughan, Esq.—Amer. Sentinel.

Mr. Vaughan is now in his 83d year, and is one of the most interesting men in Philadelphia. He is secretary to the American Philosophical Society, and lives in their apartments. He was educated under the auspices of Benjamin Franklin, was his intimate friend, and, in a long career of public usefulness and private benevolence, has faithfully walked in his footsteps. He was one of Dr. Franklin's suite when he was presented to Marie Antoinette, after France had recognized the independence of the United States. Dr. Franklin had ordered a wig, and intended to appear in a full court dress; but when the wig was sent him, it was too small. He told the perquisite that he had marred his whole arrangements by this blunder, and that it was now too late to rectify it. "Ah mon Dieu, Monsieur, c'est qui votre tele est trop grosse," was the ready reply; and Franklin at once resolved to appear in his velvet coat of the Quaker cut, with his hair combed back; in short, in his usual attire when dressed for a private party. His fine venerable figure, in this unique yet becoming apparel, created quite a sensation in the French court, and what was the result, merely of a barber's blunder, was talked of as an admirable specimen of good taste and republican independence! His suite were all in court dress; and as Mr. Vaughan had only newly arrived at Passy, he was fitted with clothes hired for the day from a friper.

In the Hall of the American Philosophical Society there is a portrait of Franklin in the act of reading. He is dressed in a wig and light blue coat. This portrait, which Mr. Vaughan describes as an exact resemblance, gives him an expression about the lower part of the face, different from that of any other portrait which I have seen; it indicates more concentration of mind. The bust of him, of which we have castes in Edinburgh, is here in marble, and is a duplicate of the head and shoulders of his statue erected above the front door of the Philadelphia Library, of which he was founder. It also is a faithful representation of him according to Mr. Vaughan's testimony. His chair likewise is here, and bespeaks his ingenious mind. It is in itself an odd, comfortable, leather-covered arm-chair, on wheels. But the bottom turns round on a pivot, and its under side presents steps for mounting up to the shelves of the library.—The chair in which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence is also preserved here. It is small, circular in form, with arms, and a high back; and a flat black board is fixed over the arm, on which Jefferson wrote.

The following biography of a noble and chivalrous youth, who, but for the lamentation event which terminated his existence, would have become an ornament to the service and his country, is extracted from Mackenzie's Life of Com. Perry, recently published by the Hagers, in their Family Library:

James Alexander Perry entered the service in 1811, being then ten years old, and continued in the flotilla at Newport two years; after which he accompanied his brother to Lake Erie, escaped wounded through the battle, but with sundry bullets and splinters through his hat and clothes, and accompanied the expedition up the Thames. He was to have gone with his brother in his flying squadron; but the peace cutting short that expedition, he went in the Chippewa to the Mediterranean in 1815. On her departure from the Mediterranean he was transferred to the Ontario, from the Ontario he passed to the Java, and on the departure of the Java for the United States, was transferred to the Washington, in which he returned home late in 1817, after a long and highly improving cruise. He was now made lieutenant on board the Peacock. Subsequently he was sent by his brother to France to improve himself, and resided a year or two at Passy, in the family of a learned Protestant clergyman. During this time, his improvement in the language of the country, and in the general cultivation of his mind was extraordinary; and he made such good use of his time that he came home a very accomplished young man, and his extraordinary amiability and cheerfulness rendered him a very agreeable one. He passed through the perils of his youth with no other disaster than the loss of a small portion of his chin, in a duel with a midshipman of his own age, but which did not materially injure his good looks; and, soon after, went to sea in the Franklin, as one of her lieutenants. Shortly after the arrival of the ship at Valparaiso, he had a night encounter in the streets with two soldiers, who attempted to rob him. He successfully resisted them, securing the sword of one of them, when they took to their heels. Going one morning with a large party of midshipman and a single seaman, in one of the Franklin's boats on a shooting excursion, in attempting to land on the beach, they got unperceived in the rollers, so dangerous on the coast, and which suddenly rose behind you after a long stillness. The boat was turned over, and her whole contents precipitated, with terrible violence, into the mingled sand and water. Then the treacherous wave swept back, carrying with it the boat and its struggling crew.—The most vigorous recovered themselves, seized upon an oar or a thwart, and commenced swimming for the shore. Perry, active, fearless, and an expert swimmer went in ahead of the party, and

would have been the first to land, when, hearing the cries of little Coffin, the youngest of the party, he put back to the assistance, and, becoming exhausted by the renewed raging of the surf, perished without accomplishing the object of his self-sacrifice.

Lost Money Found. A small package of money was found in one of the city banks, on Thursday, which was lost and found under the following circumstances. The package contained \$600, and was sent by a bank in New Bedford to the bank in Boston. Its receipt, however, was never acknowledged, and, after considerable correspondence on the subject, the New Bedford bank gave up the matter, and concluded "to pocket the loss." Thus the matter has rested for three or four years. On Thursday last, the cashier of the bank in Boston lost a piece of India rubber behind his desk; in attempting to push it out with a ruler, he immediately discovered the lost package of bank bills, safe and sound; and what is more remarkable, there was no uncurrent note in the package! The money of course, will be passed to the credit of the New Bedford bank; and we presume, with interest added.—Bunker Hill Aurora.

Advice to a Bride. "Hope not for perfect happiness," said Madam de Maintenon to the princess of Savoy, on the eve of her marriage with the Duke of Burgundy, "there is no such thing on earth, and though there were, it does not consist in the possession of riches. Greatness is exposed to afflictions often more severe than those of a private station. Be neither vexed nor ashamed to depend on your husband. Let him be your dearest friend, your only confidant. Hope not for constant harmony in the married state. The best husbands and wives are those who bear occasionally from each other sallies of ill humor with patient mildness. Be obliging without putting great value on your favors. Men are tyrants, who would be free themselves and have us confined. You need not be at any pains to examine whether their rights be well founded; it is enough that they are established. Pray God to keep you from jealousy. The affections of a husband are never to be gained by complaints, reproaches, or sullen behaviour."

The following anecdote of Schlaberdorf, who saved his life by losing his boots, is curious, and, we believe, new:—

"One morning the death-cart came for its usual number of daily victims; and Schlaberdorf's name was called out. He immediately, with the greatest coolness and good humor, prepared for departure; presence of mind in some shape, a grand stoicism or mere indifference, were common in these terrible times; and Schlaberdorf was not the man to make an ungraceful departure, when the unavoidable must of fate stood sternly before him. He was soon dressed, only his boots were missing; he sought, and sought, and the goater sought with him in this corner and in that, but they were not to be found. "Well," said Schlaberdorf sharply, "this is too bad: to be guillotined without my boots will never do. Hark ye, my good friend, continued he with simple good humor to the goater, "take me tomorrow; one day makes no difference; it is the man they want, not Tuesday or Wednesday." The goater agreed. The wagon, full enough without that one head, went off to its destination; Schlaberdorf remained in the prison. Next morning, at the usual hour, the vehicle returned, and the victim who had so strangely escaped on the previous day was ready, boots and all, waiting the word of command. "Behold! his name was not heard that day; nor the third day, nor the fourth; and not at all. There was no mystery in the matter. It was naturally supposed that he had fallen with the other victims named for the original day; in the multitude of sufferers no one could curiously inquire for an individual; for the days that followed there were enough of victims without him; and so he remained in prison till the fall of Robespierre, when with so many others he recovered his liberty. He owed this miraculous escape, not the least strange in the strange history of the revolution, partly to the kindness of the goater, partly, and mainly to his good temper. He was a universal favorite in the gaol."—Foreign Quarterly.

BOOT AND SHOE LEATHER.—The town of Stoughton, about seventeen miles from Boston, contains about 2,000 inhabitants. Almost every man, woman and child are engaged, directly or indirectly, in attending to the manufacturing of the people. During one of the last years, 180,000 pairs of boots and 54,000 pairs of shoes were manufactured in that town, the value of which exceed \$487,000! If the same number of persons on any one spot of the Globe can show more honorable fruits of industry, why, in the language of the day, we'll "knock under."—Phila. Amer.

Thomas Jefferson once said, after he had been President of the United States:—"The habit of using adroit epigrams, by men in public offices, has occasioned more injury to the public service, and more trouble to me than any other circumstance which occurred in the internal concerns of the country, during my administration. And were I to commence my administration again, with the knowledge which from experience I have acquired, the first question which I would ask, with regard to every candidate for office, should be, 'Is he addicted to the use of epigrams?'"